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have higher weighted parts during recognition, and low profile features which have lower weighted parts during recognition, and locations of said high-profile features and said low-profile features.

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3. A method as in claim 2, been said recognizing comprises determining features of the silhouette.

5. (Amended) A method as in claim [3] 1, wherein said determining features comprises determining prime features.

6. (Amended) A method as in claim 5, further comprising enclosing said prime features to form hybrid features.

7. A method as in claim 6, further comprising sorting said features by first syllable blends.

8. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said attempting comprises categorizing a whole of said handwritten word according to its overall silhouette.

9. A method as in claim 8, wherein said categorizing comprises categorizing positions of features in said handwritten

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word, and categorizing first syllable blends of said handwritten word.

10. A method as in claim 1, wherein said sample of handwriting includes family names.

11. A method as in claim 10, further comprising forming a list of a plurality of family names, and forming silhouette information about said plurality of family names, and comparing said separate handwritten words to said plurality of family names.

12. A method as in claim 11, wherein said comparing comprises forming silhouette information, and comparing said silhouette information into said silhouette information about said plurality of family names.

13. A method as in claim 12, wherein said silhouette information includes information about the presence of high and low parts in the written word and the position of those high and low parts.

14. A method as in claim 12 wherein said silhouette information includes first syllable blends in the word.

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15. (Amended) A method, comprising:
analyzing a sample of handwriting by analyzing a whole word of said sample at any one time, said analyzing comprising forming information indicative of a silhouette of said whole word, and comparing said information with a database of information about other silhouettes, wherein said silhouette information includes prime profiles indicative of specified features, and concatenated profiles indicative of combinations of specified features.

16. A method as in claim 15, wherein said database of information comprises a database of information obtained from a list of possible words.

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cont
17. (Amended) A method, comprising:
analyzing a sample of handwriting by analyzing a whole word of said sample at any one time, said analyzing comprising forming information indicative of a silhouette of said whole word, and comparing said information with a database of information about other silhouettes, wherein said silhouette

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information includes prime profiles indicative of specified features, and concatenated profiles indicative of combinations at specified features, wherein said database of information comprises a database of information obtained from a list of possible words, wherein said words are family names, and said list of possible words is a telephone book.

18. A method as in claim 15, wherein said silhouette information includes information indicative of high parts in the word and low parts in the word, and positions of said high parts and low parts in the word.

19. A method as in claim 15, wherein said silhouette information includes information about first syllable blends in the word.

20. A method as in claim 18, wherein said silhouette information also includes information about first syllable blends in the word.

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21. (Amended) A method as in claim 15, wherein said silhouette information includes prime profiles indicative of

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specified features, and concatenated profiles indicative of combinations of specified features.

*Ab
amended* 22. (Amended) A method as in claim 18, wherein each of a plurality of silhouette information is provided with a number.

23. A method as in claim 18, wherein each feature is assigned a number.